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Message Text

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ACTION STR-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 STRE-00 AGRE-00 CEA-01
CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 FRB-03 H-01 INR-10
INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 CTME-00
AID-05 SS-15 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 SP-02 SOE-02
OMB-01 DOE-11 /117 W
----------051783 272220Z /66
R 271400Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5483
INFO USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRD, GATT, YO
SUBJECT: DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN THE MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS: YUGOSLAVIA

REF: A) STATE 24987, B) STATE 036911

1. IN MEETING ON FEB.14 EMBASSY OFFICERS CONVEYED POINTS PARA 3 (A-F) (STATE 24987) TO AMERICAN DESK OFFICIALS, FEDERAL SECRETARIAT FOR FOREIGN TRADE, WHO SUBSEQUENTLY SET UP FEB. 24 MEETING WITH SLOBODAN MRKSA, DIRECTOR OF SECTION FOR GATT, UNCTAD AND COMMODITIES, FSFT.

2. MRKSA SAID THAT WHILE GOY HAD TABLED AGRICULTURAL AND NTB OFFERS, TARIFF OFFERS WOULD NOT BE TABLED UNTIL MAR.1 (AND POSSIBLY A BIT LATER). HE FELT THAT OTHER LDC'S SHOULD BE ALLOWED A BIT MORE TIME TO GET THEIR OFFERS TOGETHER, SINCE MANY HAVE NEITHER THE STAFF NOR EXPERTISE TO MAKE RIGID DEADLINES.

3. ACCORDING TO MRKSA, GOY FEELING OVER TARIFF CUTS IS THAT
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THE NUMBER OF CUTS AND THE OVERALL VALUE OF TARIFFS REMOVED ARE SECONDARY TO THE STRUCTURE OF CUTS AND THE TYPES OF PRODUCTS AFFECTED. GOY IS INTERESTED IN FACILITATING LDC TRADE PARTICULARLY, AND WILL BE LESS INTERESTED IN TARIFF CUTS OR NTB REDUCTIONS AMONG INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES--WHICH MIGHT BE IMPRESSIVE IN AGGREGATE BUT WOULD NOT AFFECT LDC TRADE IN ANY IMPORTANT WAY. YUGOSLAVIA'S GOAL REGARDING TARIFFS IS A

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60 PERCENT AVERAGE REDUCTION IN ALL THOSE ABOVE 5 PERCENT AND
ELIMINATION OF ALL NUISANCE TARIFFS CURRENTLY 5 PERCENT OR
BELOW. MRKSA ALSO VOLUNTEERED THAT THE VARIOUS GSP SCHEMES
WOULD BECOME LESS IMPORTANT AS TARIFFS WERE LOWERED ON TRADITIONAL
LDC EXPORTS, UBT THAT THE LDCS' MARGINS OF ADVANTAGE SHOULD
BE RETAINED. HE DID NOT ELABORATE AS TO HOW THIS COULD BE DONE
IN PRACTICE.
WORTZEL

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
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Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Litigation History:
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Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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